CLAIMS

1. A method for paging/finding a wireless patient-monitoring device in a WLAN network, comprising the steps of:

(a) determining a status of a radio module (RM) (117) of one or more wireless monitoring devices comprising one of a Patient-Wearable Device (PWD) (115a,115b) and a Patient-Monitoring Device (PMD) (110a,110b) that are adapted for dual-communication with one or more Access Points (104,106) and a central-monitoring station (105) in a WLAN, wherein an overall status of the PWD/PMD comprises one of a plurality of meta-states;

(b) selecting a particular PWD/PMD (115a,115b/110a,110b) for receipt of wireless transmission of a signal that is adapted for changing a meta-state of the device to a desired state if a current state of the particular PWD/PMD (115a,115b/110a,110b) is not in the desired state; and,

(c) activating an audial-code function of the particular PWD/PMD by transmitting an instruction signal to the particular PWD/PMD (115a,115b/110a,110b) to emit a predetermined first audial-code that can be heard at least by a patient being monitored by the particular PWD/PMD (115a,115b/110a,110b).

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the audial code in step (c) causes the particular PWD/PMD (115a,b/110a,b) to emit a specific tone which provides an instruction for a patient to contact a nurse.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the audial code in step (c) causes the particular PWD/PMD (115a,115b/110a,110b) to play a prerecorded/preprogrammed message to a patient that requests the patient to contact a member of a nursing staff.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the audial code in step (c) comprises a page/find function comprising a second audial code played by the particular PWD/PMD (115a,115b/110a,110b) wherein said second audial code is of a volume sufficient to permit personnel that are unaware of the wireless device's location to locate the wireless device by listening for the second audial code.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein determining of the status in step (a) of an RM (117) of one or more wireless devices occurs by polling the one or more Access Points (104,106) via unicasting.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein determining of the status in step (a) of an RM (117) of one PWD/PMD (115a,115b/110a,110b) occurs by polling the one or more Access Points (104,106) via PIC (Point In Cell) based broadcasting.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the RM (117) of one or more PWD/PMDs (115a,115b/110a,110b) uses a Wireless Medical Telemetry System WLAN DECT-based protocol.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the overall status of the plurality of meta-states of the PWD/PMD (115a,115b/110a,110b) in step (a) includes operational, standby, sleep, active, locked, seeking, inactive, PIC-associated, PIC-unassociated, PIC-connected, PIC-Unconnected, AP-associated, AP-unassociated, active timing, inactive timing and a designated out-of-range state if the particular PWD/PMD selected in step (a) does not respond.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the meta-state in step (b) of the RM (117) of the particular PWD/PMD (115a,115b/110a,110b) is changed to an active state.

10. The method according to claim 8, wherein the meta-states further include: IP-aware, IP-unaware, booting and rebooting.

11. The method according to claim 7, wherein the PWD/PMD 115a,b/110a,b periodically broadcasts the status to the one or more Access Points if the device has not been polled by a predetermined amount of time.

12. A page/find system for wireless medical monitoring devices comprising:

at least one of a central-monitoring station (105) and a plurality of Access Points (104,106);

a plurality of wireless medical monitoring devices comprising one of a patient wearable device (PWD) (115a, 115b) and a Patient Monitoring Device (PMD) (110a, 110b) that are adapted for dual-communication with the plurality of Access Points (104,106) and the central-monitoring station (105) in a WLAN, wherein the PWD/PMD devices include a plurality of meta-states;

wherein at least said one central monitoring station and plurality of Access Points are adapted for broadcasting a page/find message to a particular PWD/PMD (115a,115b/110a,110b) that signals the particular wireless medical-monitoring device to emit an audial tone at a predetermined volume that can be heard by the patient.

13. The system according to claim 12, wherein the first audial tone emitted by the particular PWD/PMD (115a,115b/110a,110b) comprises a tone that indicates a call nurse function.

14. The system according to claim 12, wherein the predetermined volume is sufficiently loud enough to permit personnel within a facility to locate the particular PWD/PMD (115a,115b/110a,110b).

15. The system according to claim 12, wherein the central station 105 and plurality of AP's (104,106) communicate with the PWD/PMD (115a,115b/110a,110b) by a Wireless Medical Telemetry System using a WLAN DECT-based protocol.

16. The system according to claim 12, wherein the central station 105 and the plurality of AP's (104,106) poll a status of the PWD/PMD (115a,115b/110a,110b) via a PIC (Point In Cell) based broadcast.

17. A patient monitoring device comprising:

means for monitoring (118) certain physiological responses of a patient;

a radio module (RM) (117) being adapted for communication with one of a central-monitoring station (105) or a plurality of Access Points (104,106);

audial-code emission means (113), wherein in response to receipt of a signal, said device emits an audial-code indicating a nurse-call function.

18. A patient monitoring device comprising:

means for monitoring (118) certain physiological responses of a patient;

a radio module (RM) (117) adapted for communication (116) with one of a central-monitoring station (105) or a plurality of Access Points (104,106); and

audial-code emission unit (113), wherein in response to receipt of a signal, said device activates a transducer that emits a first audial code at a volume sufficient for a patient to become aware that a nurse-call function has occurred; and,

an acknowledgement button (112) that when activated indicates that a nurse-call function has been acknowledged by the patient.

19. The patient-monitoring device according to claim 18, wherein the audial-emission unit 113 emits a second audial code relatively louder than the first audial code to permit the personnel in a facility to locate the device by listening for the second audial- code.

20. The patient-monitoring device according to claim 18, wherein the audial-emission unit includes a vibrator (119) and a light (120).